

# CHILLING

TALES OF HORROR

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**GHOSTLY REVENGE**

Rotting Flesh Of The Dead

**TWIN OF TERROR**

CURSE OF THE VAMPIRES

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# CHILLING

**TALES OF HORROR**

OCTOBER 1969

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3



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Murder, slaughter and blood in the jungle. Voodoo magic gave strange powers to the shrunken heads of his victims

## **THE MIDNIGHT HOWL** ..... 9

What would you do if you were trapped in an entire village of werewolves? Don't miss this bone-rattling horror

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Bat monsters, out to conquer the earth, needed human blood

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He'd murdered his own brother. But fate would not allow him to dispose of the body

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One spirit was good; the other evil, and both were fighting for control

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No one knew what made the little orphan child "different", nor what power a full moon had over her

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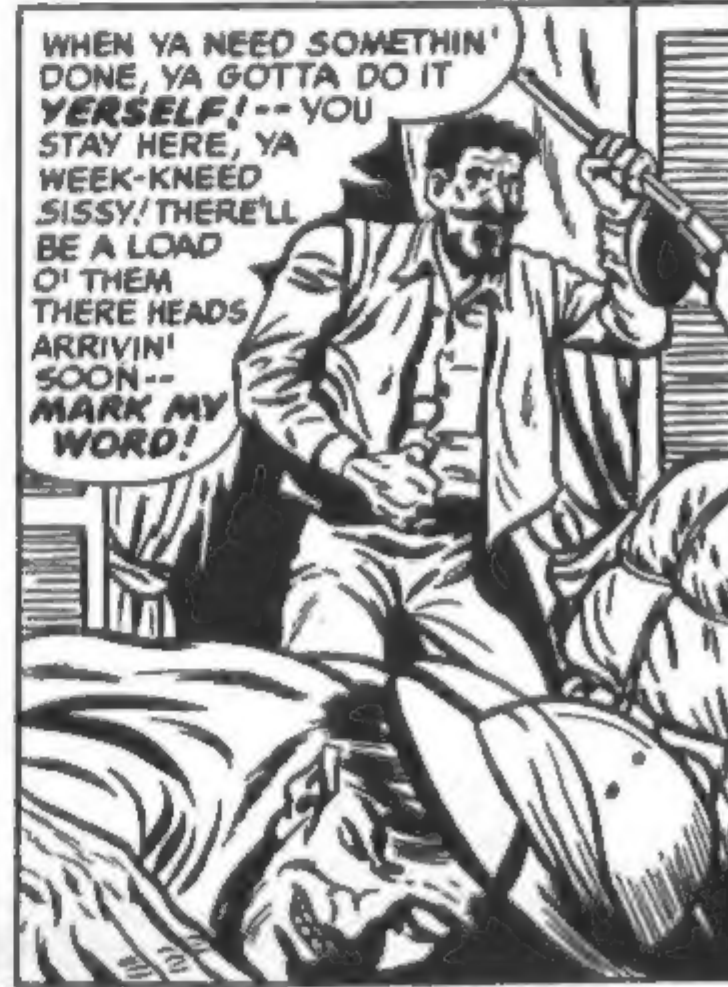
NA-NA-NA! WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF **DEATH**--ALL YOU PITIFUL MORTALS OUT THERE? AND WHO BETTER FIT TO TELL YOU THAN **THE GRIM REAPER**? TRY NOT TO TREMBLE, WEAK FOOLS, WHILE I TELL YOU THE STORY OF HOW A MAN DIED IN THE JUNGLE--**SCREAMING!** AND WHILE THE BLOOD DRIPS, YOU'LL HEAR A TALE OF HORROR--OF HOW NATIVE MAGIC DELIVERED THE QUAKING SOUL OF A **MURDERER** INTO MY **CLUTCHING HAND**--OF THE AWFUL TERROR THAT LAY WITHIN...

## GHOSTLY REVENGE



READY FOR THE GRISLY FACTS THAT LIE AHEAD? IT STARTED SO INNOCENTLY--IN A JUNGLE TRADING-POST--

WHAT! YOU LET THOSE DIRTY SAVAGES GET AWAY WITH THAT?



WHEN YA NEED SOMETHIN' DONE, YA GOTTA DO IT YERSELF!-- YOU STAY HERE, YA WEEK-KNEED SISSY! THERE'LL BE A LOAD O' THEM THERE HEADS ARRIVIN' SOON-- MARK MY WORD!





AND SO  
MCGUIRE  
HEADED INTO  
THE JUNGLE,  
HEADED FOR  
THE JOVALIS--  
AND MALOKA,  
THE OLD CHIEF!  
THEY DIDN'T  
SEE ME,  
BUT I WAS  
ON HAND,  
TOO! I  
SCENTED  
BUSINESS!

MALOKA NO LONGER  
SELL HEADS TO YOU!  
CAN GET MORE GOLD  
FROM OTHER  
WHITE MEN!

YA WON'T BE WANTIN'  
TA SELL TA OTHER  
TRADERS, YA RAT--  
NOT WHEN I'M  
FINISHED WITH YA!



IT WAS LOVELY, WHAT HAPPENED THEN! THE  
TRIBESMEN CHARGED--STRAIGHT INTO THE MAW  
OF MCGUIRE'S TOMMY-GUN! PILES OF LUSCIOUS  
CORPSES--FOR MY EAGER CLUTCHING HAND!



YOUR--  
YOUR DEATH  
SHALL BE  
MY REVENGE!  
I SWEAR  
IT!

MY DEATH, EH?  
NOW AIN'T  
THAT NICE!



YA MIND IF  
I CARRY OUT  
A COUPLA MY  
OWN PLANS  
FIRST?

ARRGH!



LIKE THIS,  
F'RINSTANCE!



THAT WAS ALL--SIMPLE, WASN'T  
IT? JUST SCREAMS OF PAIN--A  
LITTLE BLOOD--AND MCGUIRE  
HAD HIS HEADS--FREE!

I CAN SELL THIS  
BATCH FOR PLENTY!  
SO MALOKA WAS  
GONNA DEAL WITH  
OTHER TRADERS, HUH?  
TCH, TCH!



**McGUIRE SLEPT HAPPILY THAT NIGHT! TOUCHING, ISN'T IT-- HOW UNAWARE HE WAS OF MY PRESENCE! YES, HE STILL HAD HIS LIFE THEN--AND HIS BLOOD---**



**--- AND HE HAD HIS HEADS-- HIS TINY HEADS---**



**FROM DEEP IN THE JUNGLE CAME THE HOLLOW BOOMING OF A DRUM! EVEN IF McGUIRE HAD HEARD IT, HE COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THAT THIS WAS NO REAL DRUM--THAT NO LIVING HANDS BEAT IT!**



**AND IN ANSWER TO THE WEIRD SUMMONS--FROM BEYOND DEATH ITSELF--**



**I STOOD ASIDE AS OLD MALOKA'S SPIRIT ENTERED THE TENT! WAS IT IMAGINATION THEN--OR HAD THE EXPRESSIONS ON THE FACES OF THE TINY HEADS CHANGED? LOOK--SEE FOR YOURSELVES -- AND LISTEN!**







HOW YOU WOULD HAVE LAUGHED--LAUGHED TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED THEN! IT WAS TRIBAL MAGIC THAT GAVE THE TINY HEADS SPECTRAL BODIES--AND NOW THEY GROUPED FOR A FIGHT TO THE FINISH--MCGUIRE'S FINISH!





THE BATTLE WAS AT ITS CLIMAX NOW -- AND MY **CLUTCHING HAND** WAS HUNGRY FOR PREY! THEY'D FORCED HIM TO HIS KNEES, THE LITTLE DARLINGS-- AND I SAW WHY MALOKA'S GHOST HAD BROUGHT ALONG THE **MACHETE!**



YES, THEY KNEW WHAT TO DO--AND THEY DID IT!



AND SO MALOKA GOT HIS REVENGE, WHICH WAS SIMPLY FINE--BECAUSE I GOT MCGUIRE! --OH, YES! THERE WAS A BIT MORE TO THE STORY! THE FOLLOWING WEEK--BACK AT THE TRADING-POST--





# The *Midnight HOWL*



YEARS AGO, A WANDERING FUR TRAPPER MADE HIS WAY ON SNOWSHOES TO A REGION THAT WOULD HAVE MEANT A SHRIEKING DEATH TO ANY MAN LESS FORTUNATE -- AND WHEN HE RETURNED -- HE WAS NOT ALONE! THIS STORY IS THE SEQUEL TO THAT INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY -- WITH A CLIMAX AS CHILL AS THE ICE-BOUND PEAKS -- RINGING WITH THE HIDEOUS RISE AND FALL OF THE MIDNIGHT HOWL!

IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTHWEST CANADA -- WHERE THE LONG ARCTIC NIGHTS CREAK AND RUSTLE -- AND THE MOON SHADOWS SPRAWL BLUE UPON THE SNOW --

IT'S NO USE, LINDA -- WE CAN'T GAIN ALTITUDE WITH THAT LOAD OF ICE ON THE WINGS -- WE'LL HAVE TO LAND!

I CAN'T THINK OF A WORSE PLACE TO BE STRANDED, FRED -- WITH NOTHING AROUND US BUT SNOW AND MUFFLED SILENCE!

I WOULDN'T MIND FACING IT ALONE, HONEY -- BUT I CERTAINLY WISH I HADN'T BEEN FOOL ENOUGH TO TAKE YOU ALONG!





FOR MONTHS, I'VE TOYED WITH THE IDEA OF A TEST FLIGHT IN SEVERE WINTER WEATHER -- AND YET I KEPT PUTTING IT OFF -- BECAUSE SOMETHING WARNED ME IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS! BUT EVEN THEN, IT WAS A DANGER I COULDN'T DEFINE -- AND I HAVE A FEELING NOW IT'S STILL AHEAD OF US!



AS SNOW TOPPLES FROM THE MANTLED PINES -- THUDDING SOFTLY IN THE RESTLESS SOLITUDE --

FRED -- LET'S NOT LEAVE THE PLANE! I'D RATHER FREEZE TO DEATH THAN GO WANDERING OFF -- AND FIND OURSELVES FACING HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT!

COME ON, HONEY -- DON'T LET THE ATMOSPHERE THROW YOU! EVEN IN A LONELY REGION LIKE THIS -- WE'RE BOUND TO COME ACROSS PEOPLE SOMEWHERE!



IN A WILDERNESS WHERE EVERY TREE CASTS A BLURRED SHADOW -- AND EVERY SHADOW QUIVERS LIKE A CROUCHING THING --

HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT WE'VE BEEN WALKING IN A DEFINITE DIRECTION? I WONDER IF IT'S MERE CHANCE -- OR BECAUSE WE FEEL SOMETHING WE CAN'T SEE?

I'M AWARE OF SOMETHING, LINDA! BUT COME TO THINK OF IT -- I'VE ALWAYS EXPERIENCED A VAGUE UNEASINESS JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT!



SUDDENLY --

LOOK -- THEY'RE HUMAN FOOT-PRINTS!

SOMEONE WALKED OUT OF THOSE WOODS, FRED -- BUT WHERE'D HE GO? THE TRACKS END RIGHT HERE -- ABRUPTLY!



THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER -- A LEAP TO THE TOP OF THAT ROCK -- AND NO HUMAN COULD'VE DONE THAT!

GET BACK! I THOUGHT I SAW A PINE BRANCH STIRRING UP THERE -- BUT IT'S A HEAD -- PEERING DOWN AT US!



THEN -- UPTHURST AGAINST A GLINTING SKY --



WITH A BOUND THAT CASTS A SHAGGY SPOCH OF EVIL UPON THE SNOW --

LOOK OUT -- IT'S A WEREWOLF!





THERE ARE TIMES WHEN FEAR CAN TRANSFORM A MAN --OR LOVE--OR SOMETHING DEEP WITHIN HIM THAT FINDS VOICE IN A DESPERATE SNARL! IN A RUSH THAT RAISES A HISSING SPRAY OF SNOW--

WHATEVER HAPPENS--YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TOUCH HER!



FOR AN INSTANT, A PANTING STARE GLEAMS LIKE POINTS OF FIRE FROM THE MONSTROUS FACE-- AND THEN--

FRED--IT'S DRAWING BACK!

I'M NOT FOOL ENOUGH TO THINK I'VE CHECKED IT! LET'S GET AWAY FROM THAT THING-- WHILE WE HAVE A CHANCE!



SLOWLY THE STARS FADE-- AND SPURRED BY THE GREY PRESENCE OF PURSUING FEAR--

WHAT'S THE USE OF TRYING TO ESCAPE, FRED-- KNOWING WE'RE UP AGAINST A CREATURE THAT CAN CHANGE FROM A HUMAN FORM INTO A FIEND LIKE THAT?

DEALING WITH A WEREWOLF IS BAD ENOUGH, LINDA--WITH-OUT ASSUMING IT ACTUALLY CHANGED! THOSE FOOTPRINTS WERE MADE BY THE CREATURE'S VICTIM-- AND OUR BEST BET IS TO FOLLOW THEM TO THE VILLAGE HE CAME FROM!



A MILE BEYOND--

DARLING-- I DON'T THINK I CAN GO MUCH FURTHER THROUGH THESE TERRIBLE DRIFTS!

TRY TO KEEP MOVING, LINDA! THE TREES ARE THINNING OUT-- AND THAT'S A GOOD SIGN!



THEN--ETCHED STARKLY BY THE HAZY MOONLIGHT--

HONEY-- WE MADE IT!

HOUSES! THANK GOODNESS YOU HAD THE RIGHT HUNCH ABOUT FOLLOWING THOSE TRACKS!



IN A SUDDEN CLUTCHING REALIZATION--

YE GODS-- WE WERE HEADING THROUGH A HEAVY SNOWFALL-- THERE AREN'T ANY TRACKS! AND HOW COME I EXPECTED TO FIND A VILLAGE-- INSTEAD OF A SINGLE CABIN? GUESSWORK CAN GO SO FAR-- WHAT'S BEHIND IT? AND THOSE CABINS-- THEY LOOK-- EMPTY!





IN THE NEXT INSTANT-- AS IF EVIL ITSELF HOWLED  
A MOCKING ANSWER--

GOOD HEAVENS--  
IT'S THE WEREWOLF,  
FRED-- SOME-  
WHERE  
VERY  
CLOSE!

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE CREA-  
TURE BAYING THIS TIME-- BUT I  
DON'T SEE A THING! QUICK--  
LET'S GET TO THOSE CABINS!



WHAT'LL WE DO IF  
WE CAN'T GET INTO  
THOSE EMTY CABINS  
-- SUPPOSE  
THEY'RE  
LOCKED!

THEY'RE NOT LOCKED  
-- AND THEY'RE NOT  
EMPTY! THE DOORS  
ARE INCHING OPEN--  
ONE BY ONE!



THE PALE FACES WERE AS COLD AS THE HEART  
OF A GLACIER-- EXCEPT FOR THE EYES-- AND  
THEY HELD A GLEAM OF SEETHING TERROR!

COULD BE THEY JUST LOOK WEIRD, LINDA  
-- BUT IT'S STRANGE THEY DON'T SEEM  
TO FEAR THAT NOISE WE HEARD!



WAS IT SNOW  
RUMBLING  
DOWN THE  
MOUNTAIN-  
SIDE?

OR WAS IT THE SOUND THAT MEANS  
SOMETHING ELSE IS MOVING IN  
THE FROSTY WOODS?



ALL AT ONCE-- QUAVERING CLOSE  
IN THE TINGLING AIR--



LOOK! GREAT  
GUNS-- CAN'T  
YOU SEE  
THAT THING?

HAA!  
HA HA!  
HAA!





IN A CHANGE THAT SWEEPS THE VILLAGE IN A FLASH OF HORROR--

AGH! AGH!  
Aooooo0000000!

YE GODS! THEY'RE TURNING  
INTO WEREWOLVES-- ALL  
AROUND US!

WEREWOLVES-- DOZENS  
OF THEM! WE'VE LET  
OURSELVES BE DRAWN  
INTO AN EVIL TRAP!

FOR PETE'S  
SAKE-- DON'T  
GET PANICKY!  
THEY'RE  
MOVING  
TOWARD  
US!



COME ON! WE WON'T  
STAND A CHANCE OUT  
HERE IN THE OPEN--  
THAT CABIN'S OUR  
ONLY HOPE!



SLAM!

GARRGHHHH!



THEY'RE  
BOUND TO  
BREAK IN  
--WHAT'LL  
WE DO  
NOW?

JUST ON AN  
OUTSIDE CHANCE  
--I WONDER  
WHETHER THAT  
OLD TRUNK  
WON'T YIELD  
SOMETHING  
THAT'LL HELP US  
TO ESCAPE  
FROM THOSE  
FIENDS!



AS FRED HURLS BACK THE MUSTY LID--

MILDEWED CLOTHES-- A FEW  
YELLOWED DOCUMENTS! THEY  
MUST HAVE BEEN  
PACKED YEARS AGO!

FRED-- HURRY!  
THE DOOR  
WON'T HOLD  
ANOTHER  
SECOND!

BAM!  
BAM!



GOOD  
LORD!

DARLING--  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?





FOR A MOMENT, NOTHING REGISTERS TO FRED-- NOTHING BUT A CRUSHING WAVE OF RAW HORROR-- AND IN THAT VERY MOMENT--



THEN-- ROUSED BY A SCREAM SHARP AS SHATTERED GLASS--

OH! FRED-- DON'T LET THEM TOUCH ME!

YE GODS-- LINDA!



QUICK-- GET OUT THE WINDOW!

IT'S NO USE-- IT'S NO USE! WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO NOW?

IT'S ALMOST AS IF SHE KNEW WHAT I'VE FOUND! THERE'S MORE THAN OUR LIVES AT STAKE-- WE'VE GOT TO ESCAPE!

HAA! DO YOU THINK YOU WILL FIND REFUGE FROM US? BY DAWN YOU WILL BE STAGGERING HELPLESSLY IN THE SNOW-- AND THEN YOU WILL STARE AT OUR NEARING FANGS!

WE CANNOT BE ELUDED-- WE CANNOT BE DESTROYED! LET ONLY ONE OF US ECHO THE HOWL OF MIDNIGHT AT THE FIRST MINUTE OF SUNRISE-- AND WE WILL BE SURE OF OUR PREY-- AND SAFE FROM HARM!



FRED-- DID YOU HEAR THAT? THERE'S NOTHING FOR US TO DO BUT TURN BACK-- AND GET IT OVER WITH!

HONEY, IF THE HOWL OF MIDNIGHT IS THE ONE THING THAT SHIELDS THOSE CREEPS-- MAYBE WE CAN DO SOMETHING! WE'VE GOT TO TRY, ANYWAY-- OR FACE INDESCRIBABLE HORROR!

FRED DOESN'T NOTICE LINDA'S FLEETING SMILE-- GIVING JUST A HINT-- A SHADOWY FORERUNNER OF THINGS TO COME!

HORROR.. HE THINKS IT'S HORROR-- BUT MAYBE-- MAYBE I DON'T!





HOURS LATER--

WHAT GOOD WILL THE PLANE DO-- THE ICE ON THE WINGS IS THICKER THAN EVER-- IT CAN'T BE FLOWN!

NOPE-- BUT IT CAN BE DRAGGED! WE'RE HAULING IT THROUGH THE WOODS, LINDA-- BACK TO THAT ACCURSED VILLAGE!



YARD BY YARD THROUGH THE MOON-GLAZED DRIFTS-- WITH THE SCENT OF DOOM CLINGING TO THE FROSTY AIR--

IF WE GET CAUGHT IN ONE OF THOSE DRIFTS-- WE'RE FINISHED! IT CAN'T HAPPEN-- WE'VE GOT TO REACH THE VILLAGE BY DAWN!

IT WON'T WORK, FRED! THE MIDNIGHT HOWL IS SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE SILENCED-- YOU'LL FIND OUT!



AN HOUR LATER-- WITH EYES ALIGHT WITH EVIL IN THE FROZEN MURK--

THE MORNING STAR GLINTS ABOVE THE MOUNTAINS! PREPARE-- IT IS CLOSE TO SUNRISE!

TIME FOR FANGS-- TIME FOR PAWS-- TIME FOR A CHASE THROUGH THE RINGING WOODS!



NOW WE ARE READY!

READY TO TRACK DOWN THE HUMANS WHO ARE LISTENING! -- LISTENING FOR THE MIDNIGHT HOWL IN SOME ICY HOLLOW IN WHICH THEY SOUGHT TO HIDE!



SUDDENLY-- THE SCUTTling FORMS STOP SHORT!

REMEMBER, LINDA-- KEEP YOUR HEAD-- AND LEAVE THIS TO ME!



I REMEMBER ONE THING YOU FREAKS MENTIONED-- THE SNOWSLIDES THAT COME ROARING DOWN THAT SLOPE! THAT'S WHAT I'M COUNTING ON-- HELPED ALONG BY THE VIBRATIONS OF A POWERFUL ENGINE!



WITH THE THUDDING ROAR ECHOED FROM THE QUIVERING WHITE SUMMIT--

THE HOWL-- THE HOWL-- RAISE THE MIDNIGHT HOWL!

WARRRHH!





THEN -- AS THE ENTIRE JAGGED HORIZON SEEMS TO SHIFT --



WITH THE ACCURSED VILLAGE ENGULFED.

HONEY--WE'VE DONE IT-- JUST A MINUTE BEFORE DAWN! NOW YOU WON'T HEAR SO MUCH AS A SINGLE SMOTHERED YELP!

FRED-- ARE YOU SURE? CAN'T YOU THINK OF ANYONE ELSE WHO MIGHT RAISE THE MIDNIGHT HOWL?



I DON'T GET YOU, LINDA! YOU'VE LEARNED SOMETHING-- WHAT IS IT?

I'VE LEARNED WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BITTEN-- BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO ME BACK IN THE CABIN, BEFORE WE ESCAPED! CAN'T YOU GUESS HOW LOUD MY VOICE CAN RISE IN THE NEXT FORTY SECONDS-- NOW THAT I'M ONE OF THEM?



LINDA-- DON'T! CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT IT MEANS TO TRADE YOUR SOUL FOR THE LIFE OF A WEREWOLF -- THE GRISLY SEARCH FOR PREY IN AN UN-ENDING CYCLE OF HORROR?

YOU WON'T-- YOU WON'T KEEP ME FROM DOING SOMETHING I MUST SEEK WITH A DESIRE YOU'LL NEVER FATHOM! YES, YOU CAN SPEAK OF HORROR-- BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER KNOW THE LURE OF SHAGGY GREY FORMS LOPING ALONG THE MOONLIT SNOW-- CALLING TO THEIR OWN WITH THE MIDNIGHT HOWL!



I THOUGHT YOU COULD HAVE GUESSED, LINDA-- BY NOW!

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE? IT'S CHANGING!



I ALMOST FORGOT HOW TO CHANGE, LINDA! LOOK AT ME-- CAN YOU IMAGINE YOUR FACE TURNING INTO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

SHAGGY-- EVIL-- OH, DON'T-- DON'T! I CAN'T STAND IT!





THEN--WITH THE SUN'S FIERY RIM REDDENING THE SNOW-- FRED RESUMES HIS NORMAL FORM--

FRED-- I DON'T WANT TO BECOME A THING LIKE THAT! HELP ME-- DON'T LET IT HAPPEN!

TAKE IT EASY, LINDA! IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN NOW-- IT'S DAYBREAK!



DARLING, I HARDLY KNOW HOW TO ASK-- BUT WERE YOU A WEREWOLF-- ONCE?

NOT EXACTLY-- BUT I WOULD HAVE BEEN IF I'D REMAINED IN THIS ACCURSED VILLAGE! YOU SEE, LINDA-- I WANDERED AWAY AS A CHILD-- AND WAS FOUND BY A FUR TRAPPER WHO TOOK ME TO CIVILIZATION!



IN LATER YEARS, I REMEMBERED MY BEHAVIOR THEN-- HOW I SNARLED AND YELPED AT MIDNIGHT-- STRIVING TO ANSWER THE UNHEARD SUMMONS THAT STILL ECHOED WITHIN ME! IN TIME, MY MEMORY OF THE MIDNIGHT HOWL FADED AWAY-- I COULD LOOK AT A PICTURE OF A WOLF WITH LITTLE MORE THAN A NAMELESS QUIVER OF KINSHIP-- BUT SOMETHING REMAINED!



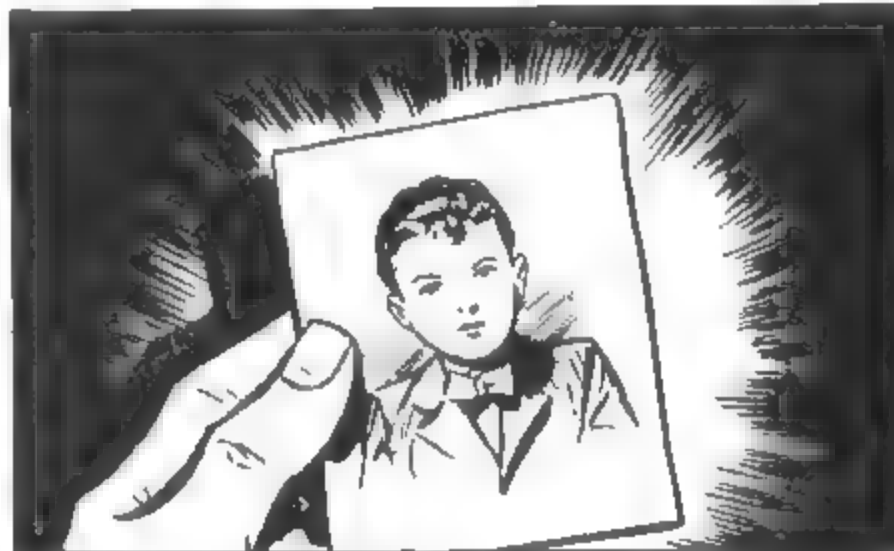
SOMETHING-- STRONG ENOUGH TO IMPEL YOU TO MAKE THIS FLIGHT!

IT WAS A CROSSCURRENT, LINDA-- MOVING ME UNAWARE ON A SECRET COURSE-- DRAWING ME BACK TO THE HALF-WORLD FROM WHICH I HAD COME! THAT MUCH I FINALLY REALIZED WHEN I SEARCHED THAT OLD TRUNK-- BRINGING BACK A SURGE OF MEMORIES THAT BRISTLED LIKE JAGGED FANGS!



ONE THING-- THANK HEAVEN-- SAVED ME THEN FROM THE CLUTCHING CONVICTION THAT I HAD AT LAST RETURNED! ONE THING, LINDA-- AND THAT WAS THE THOUGHT THAT NOTHING COULD MEAN MORE THAN YOU!

DARLING, EVEN IF IT WAS SOMETHING HIDEOUS-- WE'RE SAFE FROM TERROR NOW! LET ME SEE WHAT YOU FOUND!



THE TAWNY SUNLIGHT GLAZED THE SNOW THAT LAY LIKE AN ETERNAL MANTLE OVER THINGS THAT WOULD NEVER RISE... A KEENING WIND RIPPLED THE SILENT DRIFTS-- AND SOMETHING FLUTTERED IN FRED STANTON'S HAND! IT WAS A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN YEARS BEFORE-- THE PORTRAIT OF A BOY WHO WAS FATED TO ESCAPE-- AND WHOSE RETURN WOULD MARK THE END OF THE MIDNIGHT HOWL! HIS OWN PICTURE!

THE END



# THE HUNGRY HORDE



Out of the shadows they came, from crumbling graves and rotted tombs! Their eyes blazed evil--their twisted brains seethed with plans of death and destruction--  
**and the entire world was their target!**

ONE EVENING, AT A LARGE RED CROSS BLOOD BANK...

KEEP A SHARP EYE ON THOSE CARTONS, MEN! IT'S A SPECIAL SHIPMENT OF PLASMA FOR OUR MEN!

DON'T WORRY, CHIEF--WE'LL GUARD IT WITH OUR LIVES!



FATEFUL WORDS, FOR ON A NARROW BALCONY ABOVE, A HIDEOUS CREATURE CROUCHED OMINOUSLY --

**HAA--HA-HA!**  
THEY ARE ALONE NOW! ONLY TWO PUNY MORTALS BETWEEN ME AND THAT PRECIOUS CARGO!





IN A SWIFT DOWNWARD PLUNGE...



BULLETS ARE  
USELESS,  
FOOL! NOW--

GREAT  
SCOTT!

ARRGH!



BANG!



--DIE!

RUUU-  
OOO?

WHAM!

WITH THE GUARDS DISPOSED OF..



HURRY, MY COHORTS!  
TAKE AS MANY OF THE  
CARTONS AS YOU CAN  
CARRY! WE MUST  
BE GONE BEFORE  
DAYLIGHT!

YES, MASTER--  
WE OBEY!



THIS IS BUT THE **BEGINNING!**  
BLOOD WILL GIVE US **STRENGTH**, AND  
STRENGTH IS **POWER**—POWER TO  
CRUSH AND KILL, TO MAKE US  
**MASTERS OF THE WORLD!**

NEXT MORNING, AT RED CROSS  
HEADQUARTERS...

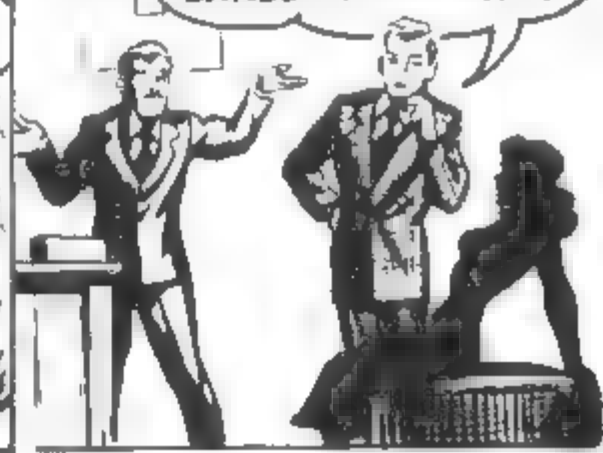
IT'S A **CATASTROPHE**, MARK!  
THINK OF IT--AN ENTIRE SHIPMENT  
OF PLASM, **VANISHED!**  
WHAT WILL THE ARMY  
SAY, THE PUBLIC? AND  
WE DON'T HAVE A  
SINGLE CLUE!

WHAT  
ABOUT THE  
STORY THE  
GUARD TOLD--  
THE ONE WHO  
WASN'T  
KILLED  
OUTRIGHT?



PURE ROT! THE POOR  
DEVIL WAS OUT OF HIS MIND,  
RAVING ABOUT A HIDEOUS  
MONSTER--WITH **BAT WINGS**,  
NO LESS!

SURE, IT'S  
FANTASTIC, BUT IF  
WE'RE TO LICK THIS  
THING, WE'LL HAVE  
TO FOLLOW UP EVERY  
**SHRED** OF EVIDENCE!







THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU IN, MARK! YOU'RE ONE OF THE BEST DETECTIVES IN THE COUNTRY! YOU'VE GOT TO CRACK THIS CASE! YOU **MUST!**

EASY NOW, MR. MASON-- MARTHA AND I WILL GET RIGHT ON IT!



OUTSIDE...

OKAY, MARTHA, HERE'S YOUR ASSIGNMENT! CHECK EVERY NEWSPAPER FOR AN ITEM THAT MAY GIVE US AN ANGLE-- THEN MEET ME AT THE LAB! GOT IT?

I'M ON MY WAY!



THAT EVENING --

ANY LUCK, HONEY?

COULD BE, MARK -- LOOK AT **THIS!**

# TOWN TIPPLER TELLS WHOPPER!

Last night, Clyde Daniels staggered into the abandoned Lombardy house on Gribold Road and reportedly heard a running conversation between a number of talking bats. Rushing to Police Headquarters, Daniels was allowed to sleep it off under lock and key. Amused officials were



LATER THAT NIGHT -- WITH THE MOONLIGHT GLISTENING ON THE ANCIENT GABLES --

YOU SURE PLAY YOUR HUNCHES **STRONG, BABY--** AND NOW THAT I ACTUALLY **SEE** THE LOMBARDY PLACE, I'M **CONVINCED** THAT NEWSPAPER STORY ABOUT **TALKING BATS** IS A CLUE!

IT... IT DOES LOOK RATHER FRIGHTENING!



YOU WAIT THERE WHILE I LOOK AROUND INSIDE -- NO POINT TAKING ANY UNNECESSARY CHANCES!

RIGHT, DARLING-- BUT DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE LONG!

BRRR--IT'S SPOOKY OUT HERE --AS IF I WERE BEING WATCHED--BY INVISIBLE EYES!



HEL--- MMMMMFF!



AS THE MONSTER DESCENDS WITH  
THE UNCONSCIOUS GIRL IN  
HIS STEELY GRASP...

HAA-HA-HA! ANOTHER  
VICTIM--FOR THE  
MASTER!



WHEN MARTHA REVIVES...

WH-WHAT  
HAP...?  
MERCIFUL  
HEAVENS  
--A  
VAMPIRE!

YES, YOU WHINING  
SPY-- A **MASTER**  
VAMPIRE -- AND SOON,  
**RULER OF THE**  
**WORLD!**



SOON YOU WILL DIE FOR  
YOUR CURIOSITY -- BUT  
FIRST YOU WILL SEE WHAT  
IS IN STORE FOR THE  
**REST OF MANKIND --**  
A PLAN THAT WILL  
ENSLAVE THE WORLD AND  
MAKE ME THE SUPREME  
MASTER FOR ALL ETERNITY!  
**COME!**



DESCENDING INTO THE DARK  
BASEMENT--A FANTASTIC  
SIGHT!

**GOOD HEAVENS!**  
THAT HUGE VAT--  
WHAT'S IN IT?

**PLASMA!** IT'S  
WHAT WE STOLE LAST  
NIGHT -- AND IT'S BEING PUT  
TO EXCELLENT USE! WHAT YOU  
SEE IS A MASS TRANSFUSION OF  
HUMAN BLOOD TO MY  
VAMPIRE HORDE!



TO LIVE, A VAMPIRE NEEDS HUMAN  
PREY, BUT VICTIMS AREN'T ALWAYS  
READILY AVAILABLE! THAT'S WHY I HAVE  
THOUGHT OF THIS! SOON THE NEED OF  
MY FOLLOWERS WILL BE QUENCHED, AND  
THEIR STRENGTH WILL BE IRRESISTIBLE! THEY  
SHALL BE THE CORE OF  
MY VAMPIRE ARMY!

THEY IN TURN WILL ROB  
OTHER BLOOD BANKS, SO THAT  
MORE OF OUR KIND CAN BE  
NOURISHED! WE WILL GROW IN  
NUMBERS, AND THEN **STRIKE!** WE  
WILL ENSLAVE THE WORLD AND COMPEL  
ALL MORTALS TO DONATE PLASMA TO US AT  
REGULAR INTERVALS! THUS WE SHALL  
RULE FOREVER, FOR AS LONG AS WE  
HAVE HUMAN BLOOD, **VAMPIRES**  
CAN NEVER DIE!









**LOOK! IT'S THEIR LEADER! — WE'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM!**

HOLD TIGHT,  
MARTHA—  
WE'LL TRY TO  
OUT-DISTANCE  
HIM!

**FOOLS!**  
YOU CAN'T  
ESCAPE  
**ME!**

**GREAT GUNS!  
HE'S GRABBED  
THE WHEEL--I'M  
LOSING CONTROL!**

HA-HA-HA!

WH-WHERE  
AM I?  
M-MARK,  
ARE YOU--?

**WE'RE BOTH  
FINE, HONEY!  
LOOK! UP  
ABOVE!**

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND--

— CAN'T YOU **SEE?** HE WAS FLUNG AGAINST THOSE JAGGED **BRANCHES** WHEN WE CRASHED! ANY STAKE OF **WOOD** THROUGH A VAMPIRE'S HEART MEANS HIS DOOM — AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM!

**THE FOLLOWING DAY...**

IT STILL SEEMS UNBELIEVEABLE, BUT THAT EVIDENCE IN THE OLD HOUSE CONVINCED ME! WHY NOT LET ME TELL THE WHOLE STORY TO THE PRESS?

**NOTHING  
DOING! MARTHA  
AND I ARE GETTING  
MARRIED TODAY!  
ALL WE WANT IS  
PEACE AND  
QUIET!**

**FROM  
NOW  
ON!**

THE  
END



HERE IT IS, FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT... A COLOSSAL COLLECTION OF STAR SPANGLED SENSATIONS. THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH! SEE A SPARKLING NEW WORLD UNFOLD BEFORE YOUR EYES. THRILL TO THE DEATH-DEFYING AERIALISTS. LAUGH ROTOUSLY AT THE ANTICS OF THE CLOWNS! BUT IT ISN'T ALWAYS FUNNY! UNDERNEATH THE VAST, TIMSEL HEART OF THE CIRCUS SOMETIMES BEATS A HORROR THAT ISN'T IN THE BILLING. A GRISLY TERROR THAT THE PRESS-AGENTS, WHITE-LIPPED, STRIVE TO HIDE! YOU'LL CLUTCH AT YOUR THROAT BUT NOT AT THE LION'S MIGHTY ROAR! THROUGH DRIED, CRACKED LIPS YOU'LL TRY TO SCREAM. AND TOTO, THE GORILLA, WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE! THAT HYSTERICAL CACKLE OF SHEER FEAR IT'S YOU, WILDLY LAUGHING, WHEN IT ISN'T EVEN TIME FOR THE CLOWNS! NO, THIS IS A NEW ACT WHICH SETS YOUR HEART BEATING TO A LUNATIC RHYTHM, AND IT TAKES PLACE OFF-SCENE. WITH DEATH GRINNING FROM THE WINGS! IT'S A STORY OF STARK BLACK HATRED BETWEEN BROTHERS TRAPPED TOGETHER BY A GRIM JEST OF FATE... A STORY SUCH AS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD! READ THIS TERROR TALE OF A TRAGIC PAIR JOINED, YOU'D THINK, FOR ETERNITY

# Rotting Flesh Of The Dead



THE CALLIOPE IS STILLED... THE CRIES OF HAWKERS HUSHED! FOR THE CIRCUS SLEEPS...



THEN, DAWN! THE SUN MOUNTS HIGHER... THE WORLD OF THE TAMBARK STIRS...



EVERYBODY UP...TO FACE A NEW DAY IN THEIR WORLD OF MAKE-BELIEVE!  
FIRST THE ANIMALS...



...THEN THE FAR-FAMED STARS OF THE BIG TOP...



...AND THE "STRANGE PEOPLE"...INCLUDING TWO OF THE STRANGEST!

CHAINED TO HIM--  
FOREVER! LORD,  
HOW I HATE HIM--  
HATE HIM--

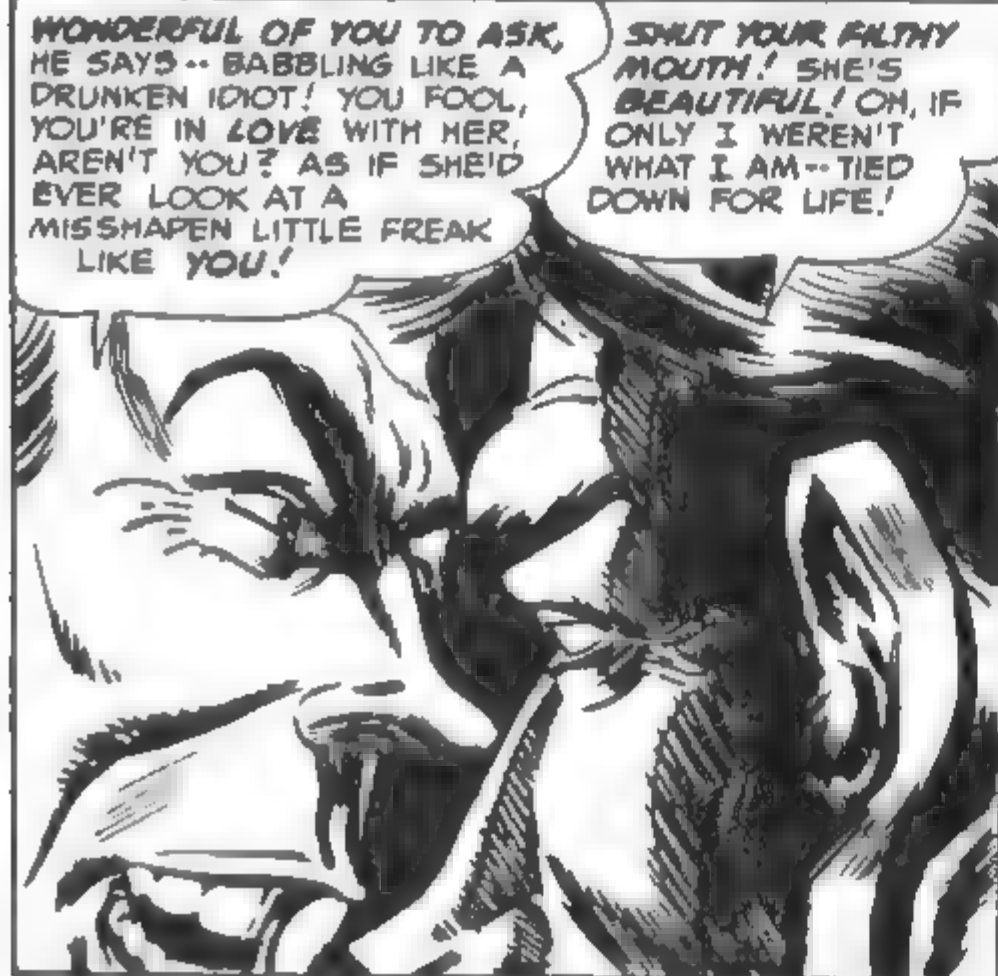


OH-OH, THERE WE GO, READER. GIVING AWAY ONE OF THE CIRCUS'S MOST CLOSELY-GUARDED SECRETS! YES, THE SIAMESE TWINS HATED EACH OTHER WITH A MURDEROUS VENOM THAT SURPASSED BELIEF! FUNNY, ISN'T IT... SORT OF LIKE... HATING YOURSELF! BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS! YOU WOULDN'T MENTION LOVE IN THE SAME BREATH WITH BILLIE AND PHILLIE ALLEN, UNLESS YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE WAY BILLIE, THE DARK-HAIRED ONE, FELT ABOUT ROSAMUND TRAVELL...



WONDERFUL OF YOU TO ASK, HE SAYS-- BABBLING LIKE A DRUNKEN IDIOT! YOU FOOL, YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH HER, AREN'T YOU? AS IF SHE'D EVER LOOK AT A MISSHAPEN LITTLE FREAK LIKE YOU!

SHUT YOUR FILTHY MOUTH! SHE'S BEAUTIFUL! OH, IF ONLY I WEREN'T WHAT I AM--TIED DOWN FOR LIFE!



BUT THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT-- IS THERE? HOW DOES THAT SONG GO? OH, YES... "I GO WHERE YOU GO... YOU GO WHERE I GO..."

SHUT UP! I--I CAN TELL FROM THE WAY SHE LOOKS AT ME THAT MAYBE--IF THINGS HAD BEEN DIFFERENT--BUT OH, NO! THERE'S GOT TO BE YOU--ALWAYS YOU!





IT WAS A STRANGE COURTSHIP...AND NOW THE CIRCUS LAUGHED, LAUGHED! BUT BILLIE COULDN'T KNOW THAT...HE WAS TOO BLINDED BY LOVE!

SEE THAT TRAPEZE? JUST PICTURE HER UP IN THE AIR, FREE AS A BIRD! AND YOU, DOWN BELOW -- CHAINED TO ME!

★  
Rosamund Traveli



YOU'D THINK THAT FATE HAD ALREADY PLAYED ENOUGH OF A TRICK ON THE LITTLE ~~ILLUM~~ BROTHERS! BUT NO. THEY HAD TO ARRIVE AT THIS INOPPORTUNE MOMENT...

I DON'T GET IT, ROSAMUND! THE WAY YOU ENCOURAGE THAT LITTLE CREEP! WHY'NT YA GIVE 'IM THE BUM'S RUSH?

HA-HA-- I CAN'T HELP IT! IT TICKLES ME-- THAT LITTLE JERK OF A BILLIE THINKIN' HE'S GOT A CHANCE! YOU KNOW ME-- ANY-THING FOR A LAUGH!



STOP IT, YOU MORON! START A FUSS AND THAT GUY WOULD PULVERIZE BOTH OF US! I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU -- BUT EVERY TIME IT DOES, IT HAPPENS TO ME, TOO!

MMMF!



OH, IF ONLY PHILLIE HAD FOLLOWED THROUGH...AND GOTTEN OUT OF THERE FAST! BUT NO. HE HAD TO LINGER...LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE BILLIE THE OPPORTUNITY HIS REVENGE!

NOW STAY PUT AND SHUT UP! I WANT TO WATCH WHEN HE KISSES HER!

Rosamund Traveli



THAT NIGHT, THE BIG TOP WAS CROWDED! PICTURE YOURSELF THERE, BREATHING IN THE EXCITING CIRCUS SMELL... LISTENING TO THE GAY PIPING OF THE CALLIOPE! THEN A FANFARE OF DRUMS...AND YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING! THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE COME FOR...TO WATCH ROSAMUND TRAVELI DARE DEATH ON THE SWINGING TRAPEZE...HIGH ABOVE THE AWED MULTITUDE, AND WITHOUT A NET! YOU WATCH THAT TINY FORM, AND SUDDENLY A STRANGE UNEASE GRIPS YOU! YOU LISTEN TO THE RINGMASTER, AND YOU'RE AFRAID!

LA-DEEZ AND GENTLEMEN! THE ONE AND ONLY-- THE DARLING OF THE CIRCUS-- THAT INTREPID MISTRESS OF THE HIGH TRAPEZE--



--ROSAMUND TRAVELI! IN THE DEATH-DEFYING SPECIALTY WHICH HAS MADE HER FAMOUS!-- TAKE IT AWAY, ROSAMUND!



IN THE HUSHED, TENSE SILENCE, THE BEATING OF YOUR HEART SEEMS THUNDEROUS...BUT IT ISN'T LOUD ENOUGH. NOT LOUD ENOUGH TO COVER THE HUMMING TWANG OF PARTING ROPE...OR A WOMAN'S DESPAIRING SCREAM AS SHE HURTTLES DOWNWARD!





LOOK AT THE TRAPEZE  
ROPE S--SAWED HALF  
THROUGH! WHO COULD  
HAVE HATED HER ENOUGH  
FOR THAT?

THAT LOOK ON  
YOUR FACE--YOU--  
YOU CUT  
THOSE ROPES!

SHUT  
YOUR  
MOUTH! IF  
YOU'VE GOT  
ANYTHING TO  
SAY, WAIT TILL  
WE'RE ALONE!



BACK IN THE SAFETY OF  
THEIR TENT...

ALL RIGHT NOW--YOU MIGHT  
AS WELL KNOW! SURE I  
DID IT-- SHE DESERVED  
IT, DIDN'T SHE?

BUT SHE--SHE  
WAS SO BEAUTIFUL--  
SO ALIVE!



WHAT THE--I'M BEGINNING TO  
UNDERSTAND NOW! ALL  
THOSE THINGS YOU SAID  
ABOUT THE WAY I FELT  
TOWARDS HER-- YOU WERE  
JUST JEALOUS, WEREN'T  
YOU? BECAUSE YOU  
WERE IN LOVE  
WITH HER  
TOO!

YES-- AND I  
THOUGHT-- SHE  
PREFERRED YOU--  
BUT YOU--  
KILLED HER!



ALL RIGHT-- SO I KILLED HER! BUT YOU CAN'T DO  
ANYTHING ABOUT IT! WHAT ARE THEY GONNA DO,  
SEND ME TO JAIL-- WITH YOU ALONG? PUT ME IN  
THE ELECTRIC CHAIR-- WITH YOU IN MY LAP? HANG  
ME-- WHILE YOU DANGLE IN THE AIR TOO? DO YOU  
SEE NOW WHY YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP YOUR  
MOUTH SHUT?

NO--I DON'T CARE  
WHAT HAPPENS TO  
ME! I'LL CALL 'EM  
NOW-- POLICE!



ARE-- ARE YOU  
CRAZY? STOP IT,  
DO YOU HEAR  
ME--STOP IT!

I WON'T! I'LL LET  
EVERYBODY KNOW!--  
HELP, POLICE! HE KILLED  
ROSAMUND TRAVEL! HE--



ALL YOUR LIFE YOU'VE  
BEEN ASKING FOR IT--  
AND NOW--

ARRGH!



AND SO DEATH STRUCK FOR THE SECOND TIME THAT NIGHT! LIKE CAIN AND ABEL, BROTHER HAD SLAIN BROTHER. HATRED HAD BEEN PAID OFF IN BLOOD! BILLIE ALLEN HAD SOWN THE WIND...NOW HE WOULD REAP...THE WHIRLWIND!



HOW TO CONCEAL THE EVIDENCE OF A GRISLY CRIME WHEN IT'S PART OF YOUR BODY? BILLIE HAD TO THINK FAST, AS HE HEARD RUNNING FOOTSTEPS...

WE HEARD SOMEBODY YELLIN' FOR THE COPS! IT SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM HERE!

UH-UH--NOT HERE! WE--WE'RE JUST PRACTICIN' AN ACT, SO'S WE DON'T HAVE TO SIT UP ON THAT PLATFORM ALL THE TIME--



HOW BEST TO MEASURE PANIC, TERROR? BY THE SCREAM THAT TEARS AT YOUR THROAT AT THE SIGHT OF YOUR DEAD BROTHER? BY THE COLD VISE THAT TIGHTENS ON YOUR GUTS EVERY TIME YOU FEEL THE PULL OF A CORPSE... AND KNOW THAT IT WILL ALWAYS BE THERE, ITS BLANK EYES SHRIEKING TO THE WORLD THE AWFUL EVIDENCE OF YOUR GUILT! IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, BILLIE HID IN DESPERATION FROM THE EYES OF HUMANS...

IT--IT'S ONLY AN OWL, PHIL!--GOOD HEAVENS, CAN'T I GET OUT OF THE HABIT OF TALKING TO HIM? I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER HE'S DEAD, DEAD!



HE LEARNED WHAT IT MEANT TO BE HUNGRY...LEARNED WHAT IT WAS TO BE HUNTED





OH, THERE ARE WAYS OF GETTING AROUND IT... AT FIRST! "HE'S DRUNK", YOU SAY, OR "NOT FEELING WELL!" AND WHO CARES IF THEY DON'T BELIEVE YOU--AS LONG AS THEY DON'T GUESS THE REAL ANSWER! BUT IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER BECAUSE HOW CAN YOU EXPLAIN AWAY THE SMELL OF DEATH? BUT YOU'RE HUNGRY...RAVENOUS...YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE CRAZY CHANCES...

THIS OUGHT TO BE EASY! AFTER ALL, HAVEN'T YOU BEEN WALKING AND RUNNING FOR THIS CARRION ALREADY? IT'S BECOME SECOND NATURE, HASN'T IT? DRAG HIM...DRAG HIM...FIRST YOUR OUTSIDE LEG. THEN YOUR INSIDE, CARRYING HIS ALONG. OH, WHY CAN'T YOU GO FASTER? IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE WEAK FOR LACK OF FOOD...AND THEY'RE PASSING YOU...

BUT YOU LOSE...JUST THE SAME W. Y EVERY- THING ELSE HAS TURNED AGAIN. T YOU SUDDENLY, YOU FIND THAT YOU'RE CRYING LIKE A BABY...

YOU--YOU SURE YOU'RE BOTH ALL RIGHT? OKAY, YOU KNOW THE RULES! TIE YOUR LEGS TOGETHER--AND RUN YOUR DURNEDST!

WE--WE GOTTA RUN, PHIL--YOU--GOTTA HELP ME SPEED UP!

OH, GOD, I'M-- HUNGRY--





YOU LIVE BY PICKING REFUSE CANS, AND YOU SCUTTLE WILDLY FOR HIDING WHENEVER YOU FEEL EYES UPON YOU... QUESTIONING, SUSPICIOUS EYES! THERE'S NOBODY TO TALK TO EXCEPT A CORPSE...THE CORPSE THAT'S TRAPPED YOU INTO THIS NIGHTMARE! HE WON'T ANSWER, SO YOU HATE HIM FOR IT...HATE HIM EVEN MORE THAN YOU HAD DURING LIFE! SO HIDE, BILLIE, AND SEEK THE FORGETFULNESS THAT ONLY SLEEP WILL BRING! DREAM ABOUT HER, BILLIE ROSAMUND...BEFORE YOUR WORLD FELL APART...AND SADDLED YOU WITH A WEIGHT...A DEAD WEIGHT!

AW, C MON-- HE'S JUST A BUM!

YEAH, BUT I WONDER WHAT'S HE GOT UNDER THE BLANKET? LET'S TAKE A LOOK!

OH, H-NO! HE'S-- DEAD!

I--I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

RUN, BILLIE ALLEN...RUN! TRY TO ESCAPE FROM YOUR GUILT...BUT THE EVIDENCE IS ALWAYS WITH YOU! EVEN IF YOU HAD WINGS, THERE IT WOULD BE...JOINED TO YOU BY UNBREAKABLE CHAINS...SHRIEKING ITS MESSAGE OF MUTE ACCUSATION INTO YOUR COVERING EARS! REMEMBER THAT SONG THAT PHIL TAUNTED YOU WITH...AN ETERNITY AGO? 'I GO WHERE YOU GO...YOU GO WHERE I GO.'

I SMELL...FOOD! MUST BE--A DINER I'M UNDER! GOT TO SEE-- GOT TO SEE--

NEW PHILLY

EEE-EEEEEE! GREAT-- HEAVENS!

NOW ALL OF THE STORIES, THE RUMORS, SOLIDIFIED! THE ALARM WAS OUT!

CALLING ALL CARS! BE ALERT FOR HOBO, PROBABLY INSANE, ABOUT 5 FEET OR LESS IN HEIGHT, AND CARRYING DEAD BODY! SUSPECTED OF MURDER AND MAY BE ARMED! THIS MAN IS DANGEROUS!

POLICE HELICOPTERS ARE COMBING THE EVERGLADES, INTO WHICH THE CRAZED KILLER, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, HAS DRAGGED THE BODY...

TRAMP MURDERER REPORTED SEEN NEAR JUNCTION CITY. STILL CARRYING BODY.

IT'S A LONG WAY FROM THE CIRCUS, ISN'T IT, BILLIE? THERE ARE NO STARING CROWDS HERE IN THE HEART OF FLORIDA'S GREAT SWAMP... NOBODY TO LOOK, WHISPER, LAUGH! BUT THE FROGS HAVE EYES...THE EGRETS CAN SEE THE THOUSANDS OF LITTLE STINGING INSECTS HAVE YOU IN THEIR MOCKING GLANCE! AND THEY ALL CAN SPEAK, IN A SINGLE DERISIVE VOICE--A VOICE YOU CAN HARDLY HEAR, BUT IT'S STILL THERE! IT'S BILLIE, THEY'RE SAYING, "AND PHILLIE! PHILLIE'S COME ALONG FOR THE RIDE...HE'LL NEVER GET RID OF PHILLIE..."

YA-YA STILL WITH ME, PHIL? ANSWER, WHY DON'T YA!

THE SWAMP. THE SWAMP. WHERE YOUR MIND, CRAZED BY HEAT AND STARVATION, FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN VISION AND REALITY! SOMETIMES THERE ARE LUCID MOMENTS... MOMENTS WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING CLEARLY, KNOW WHAT YOU MUST DO...



...AND YOU DO IT...TO KEEP ALIVE THE PITIFUL REMNANTS OF LIFE WHICH SEEM SO PRECIOUS!



THEN YOU LOOK AT THE KNIFE...AND YOU LOOK AT THE HULK OF DEAD FLESH WHICH HAS BECOME YOUR CAPTOR, YOUR TORMENTOR, YOUR OLD MAN OF THE SEA. AND THE THOUGHT STRIKES YOU WITH SLEDGEHAMMER IMPACT! THE BLADE, THE KEEN, SLASHING BLADE! IT WOULD SPELL FREEDOM. IF YOU ONLY HAD THE COURAGE! A DOZEN TIMES YOU TRY TO BRING IT DOWN...BUT YOU CAN'T DO IT!

BUT THE IDEA DIDN'T DIE EASILY! SUPPOSE SOME MEANS COULD BE FOUND WHEREBY BILLIE ALLEN COULD HAVE THE JOB DONE FOR HIM! IT BECAME AN OBSESSION WITH HIM AS STRENGTH FAILED AND SWAMP FEVER CLOUDED THE MIND! AND FINALLY THE SOLUTION OFFERED ITSELF...SWAYING CRAZILY BEFORE HIS REELING BRAIN...

IT-IT WOULD BE CUTTING MY OWN FLESH, AS WELL AS HIS! HEAVEN HELP ME, I--I HAVEN'T GOT THE GUTS!

GO AHEAD, YOU--MANEATER! I'VE BROUGHT YOU A MEAL! YOU--YOU CAN HAVE HIM! JUST--ONE SLASH OF YOUR TEETH--AND I'LL BE FREE--FREE!



WONDERFUL...WHY HADN'T HE THOUGHT OF THIS BEFORE! THE MIGHTY JAWS SNAPPED DOWN, SHEARING THE TRIM APART IN A SINGLE LIGHTNING MOVE! IT WAS DONE...AT LAST!

THE FOLLOWING DAY...AT FLORIDA STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU DIDN'T BRING THAT CHARACTER IN? ONE OF OUR HELICOPTERS SPOTTED HIM YESTERDAY, AND HE SEEMED ALIVE ENOUGH! WHY DIDN'T YOU COLLAR HIM?

THREE OF OUR MEN JUST RETURNED FROM THE HUMMOCK WHERE HE'D BEEN SIGHTED! ALL THEY FOUND WAS THE PUTREFIED CORPSE OF A MAN WHO'D BEEN STRANGLED WEEKS AGO! ONLY THAT--AND NOTHING MORE!





# The LIVING HEAD



THERE ARE FIENDS PROWLING THE DARKNESS HUNGERING FOR HUMAN SOULS--THERE ARE FLAPPING CREATURES THAT CIRCLE THE CLOUDY MOON ON A VAMPIRE'S QUEST FOR BLOOD! BUT THERE ARE NAMELESS THINGS BENT ON A MIDNIGHT MISSION TOO GRISLY TO IMAGINE--AND **THIS** WAS ONE OF THEM--THE UNBURIED HORROR THAT CREPT FORTH AS THE **LIVING HEAD!**

**A** LONG A MOONLIT ROAD--

I WISH THAT DRIVER AHEAD OF US WOULD SLOW DOWN, TED! DOESN'T HE REALIZE THE ONTARIO EXPRESS REACHES THAT JUNCTION JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT?

IT'S RIGHT ON TIME, TOO--I CAN MAKE OUT THE DIESEL HEADLIGHT!

A MOMENT LATER--

**WOO-OOO!**  
YE GODS-- HE ISN'T GOING TO MAKE IT!







FOR A SECOND, THE HIDEOUS SHAPE CROUCHES BEHIND THE TWISTED MASS--AND THEN--



TED, LOOK AT THAT THING-- IT'S CHANGED!

YES--A MOMENT AGO, IT WAS JUST A LIVING HEAD--BUT NOW-- IT'S ADDED A LIVING BODY--EXCEPT FOR THOSE GHOSTLY ARMS!



WITH EYES HOLDING THE SECRETS OF AN EVIL AFTERLIFE--

HAA HA, ANOTHER MIDNIGHT, AND I WILL FIND ARMS--ARMS THAT GIVE ME CONTROL OF ANOTHER SOUL!



AS THE GRISLY FORM STALKS OFF INTO THE GLOOM--

TED--THE TRAIN IS BACKING UP! DO WE HAVE TO STICK AROUND HERE?

NOT ON YOUR LIFE! WE'RE WITNESSES--AND I DON'T WANT TO BE CONSIDERED COMPLETELY BATS WHEN THEY START ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT WE SAW!



NEXT DAY--AT ABBY'S HOME--

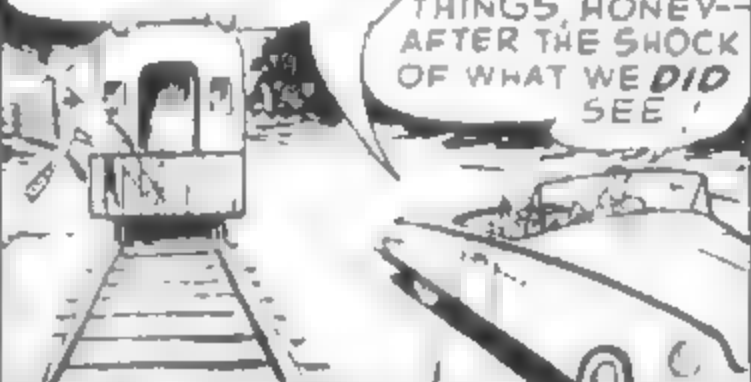
ABBY HAS NO IDEA HOW FEARFULLY MANGLED THAT BODY WAS LAST NIGHT--BUT I HOPE SHE DIDN'T TUNE IN ON THIS MORNING'S NEWS BROADCAST! THAT EVIL HEAD HAD A BODY WHEN IT LEFT THE SCENE OF THE WRECK--AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE TRAIN CREW COULD NOT FIND--ALL OF THE BODY EXCEPT THE SEVERED HEAD AND ARMS!

I'M GLAD YOU CAME DARLING--BECAUSE THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN'T GET OFF MY MIND! YOU CALLED THAT GHOULISH THING LAST NIGHT A LIVING HEAD--AND I WONDER--COULD IT HAVE LIVED FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS?

LOOK, ABBY--WHY GIVE IT ANOTHER THOUGHT? A FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT CAN SHOCK PEOPLE INTO ALL KINDS OF WILD HALLUCINATIONS--BUT BE SENSIBLE--WHERE WOULD A FIGURE GET HOLD OF AN EVIL HEAD?

I'VE GOT THE WEIRDEST FEELING THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER WITNESS THERE, TED--SOMETHING ELSE THAT WASN'T ALIVE--BUT WHICH WE COULDN'T SEE!

THAT COULDN'T BE ANYTHING BUT THE SPIRIT OF THE MAN WHO DIED--BUT IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO IMAGINE SUCH THINGS, HONEY--AFTER THE SHOCK OF WHAT WE DID SEE!



TED--THERE'S A SMALL ITEM IN THE PAPER WHICH MAY ANSWER THAT!  
**READ IT!**

LET'S SEE...A COLONIAL CEMETERY HAS BEEN EXCAVATED FOR A BUILDING SITE--AND ALL THE REMAINS WERE CAREFULLY GATHERED TOGETHER FOR REBURIAL! ONE OF THE GRAVES CONTAINED NOTHING BUT A WELL-PRESERVED HEAD--**WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE VANISHED SOME TIME DURING THE NIGHT!**

THE POLICE THINK IT WAS JUST A PRANK! BUT, TED--THAT CEMETERY WAS **ANCIENT!** A DISAPPEARING **SKULL** MIGHT BE SHRUGGED OFF-- BUT A **HEAD** FROM ONE OF THOSE GRAVES IS SOMETHING THAT'S **REMAINED ALIVE!**



NO--THIS IS MORE THAN OUR IMAGINATIONS RUNNING RIOT! A HEAD BURIED **WITHOUT** A BODY--A HEAD PROWLING THROUGH THE DARKNESS **SEEKING** A BODY--**THERE'S SOME CONNECTION!**

I WAS HOPING YOU'D FORGET ABOUT THE WHOLE THING, ABBY--BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'RE RIGHT! SUPPOSE WE CHECK THE EARLY RECORDS AT CITY HALL--AND SEE WHAT WE CAN LEARN ABOUT THAT OLD CEMETERY!

SOON AFTERWARD--  
ACCORDING TO THE PAPERS, THERE WERE ONLY SIXTY GRAVES IN THE CEMETERY! WE'VE ALREADY TRACED FORTY-FIVE OF THE BURIALS--**SO WE MUST BE GETTING CLOSE!**

YEP--MUCH CLOSER THAN I THOUGHT WE EVER **WOULD** BE! **TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!**



LIKE AN ECHO OF ANCIENT TERROR FROM THE YELLOWED PAGE--

24 August, 1741: Ye Ghou! that was captured whilst profaning a grave was today beheaded. Ye head was buried without rites--Ye body burned--Thus destroying Ye evil spirit by way of Ye two cardinal elements--Earth and Fire...

**A GHOUL!** THE EVIL SPIRIT **SHOULD** HAVE BEEN DESTROYED WHEN THE HEAD WAS BURIED OVER TWO CENTURIES AGO--**BUT WHAT HAPPENED?**

IT'S EASY TO FIGURE OUT! THE EARLY COLONIAL AUTHORITIES HAD THE RIGHT FORMULA FOR GETTING RID OF THE GHOUL'S SPIRIT--BUT THEY NEVER FORESAW THAT SOME DAY THE HEAD MIGHT BE **UNBURIED--A LIVING HEAD THAT IS NOW AGAIN BECOMING A LIVING FIEND!**

THAT NIGHT--  
IT'S NEARLY 11:30--AND IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS TO REALIZE THAT BY **MIDNIGHT** THAT W DEDUS CREATURE WILL BE ON THE PROWL AGAIN!

W SH WE COULD GET HELP, ABBY-- BUT WHAT WOULD THE POLICE THINK? WOULD **THEY** BELIEVE A LIVING HEAD IS ASSEMBLING A NEW BODY FROM DIFFERENT CORPSES-- **AND THAT THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD WILL BE ENSLAVED ONCE THE GHOUL'S BODY IS RESTORED?**







NOPE. I THOUGHT AT FIRST WE'D BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT CREEP--BUT WE MIGHT AS WELL DRIVE ITS HORROR FROM OUR MINDS!

MAYBE IT'S TOO LATE. I CAN **SEE** SOMETHING, TED--  
**DRIFTING THROUGH THE DOORWAY!**



**LIKE A GLOWING MIST HOLDING THE FAINT IMPRESS OF A HUMAN FORM--**



IT'S A DIFFERENT KIND OF GHOST-- BUT WHAT BROUGHT IT **HERE?**

DON'T LOSE YOUR NERVE! IT DOESN'T LOOK EVIL-- AND FOR SOME REASON --**IT ISN'T COMING CLOSER!**



AS THE PHANTOM TURNS SLOWLY--

ABBY--THAT THING'S **WAITING FOR US!** IT WOULD MOTION TO INDICATE IT WANTS US TO GO SOMEWHERE--**BUT IT HASN'T ANY ARMS!**



YOU MEAN WE'RE GOING TO **FOLLOW** IT? BUT TED--I CAN'T UNDERSTAND **WHY!**

THINK BACK, HONEY! REMEMBER THE **INVISIBLE PRESENCE** YOU FELT LAST NIGHT--SOMETHING THAT **KNEW** WE SAW THE GHOUL?



YOU MEAN THE SPIRIT OF THE MAN WHO WAS KILLED BY THE TRAIN, TED?

YEP, AND YOU WERE RIGHT! SOMEWHERE IN THE BEYOND IT **COMMUNICATED WITH ANOTHER SPIRIT--** THAT OF A MAN WHOSE DEATH INVOLVED **SOMETHING ELSE** THE GHOUL IS SEEKING--**THE LOSS OF HIS ARMS!**

**A** HALF-HOUR LATER--AT A DARKENED HOUSE LADEN WITH THE PRESENCE OF DEATH--

TED--WATCH! THE PHANTOM'S STARTING TO FADE!

THIS IS THE PLACE IT WANTED US TO COME TO! LET'S TAKE A LOOK INSIDE--AND SEE IF WE CAN LEARN WHY!

I HAD A HUNCH THERE'D BE A CORPSE HERE-- BUT THAT STRANGE, BOBBING LIGHT ABOVE THE COFFIN IS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN!

TED--LET'S NOT STAY! WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THE SUPERNATURAL-- AND IT'S MEANT NOTHING BUT TERROR!



SLOWLY, THE DOUBLE GLOW TAKES ON FORM-- WEAVING AND GROPING IN THE SHADOWS!

GOOD LORD-- THEY'RE HANDS!

OH! THOSE AWFUL CLUTCHING THINGS--LOOK THEY'RE GLIDING OUT!

DON'T GET PANICKY-- THERE'S NO INDICATION THEY'RE GOING TO GRAB US!



AS IF DIRECTED BY UNSEEN FOOTSTEPS--

HEAVENS, TED-- WHY ON EARTH WOULD GHOSTLY HANDS HOVER INTO A GARAGE?

HARD TO SAY --BUT THERE IS A MIND AT WORK HERE-- AND THOSE HANDS ARE MOTIVATED BY A DEFINITE PURPOSE!

A MOMENT LATER--MOVING BACK AND FORTH BEFORE THE SILENT HOUSE--

NOW THEY'RE POURING GASOLINE ALL ALONG THE DIRT DRIVEWAY-- AND YOU CAN BET THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT, TOO!

THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M AFRAID OF! TED, WE WEREN'T BROUGHT HERE JUST TO WATCH SOMETHING--WE ARE GOING TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS HIDEOUS BUSINESS--AND I'M TERRIFIED!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT... THE HANDS SEEM TO HAVE DONE JUST SO MUCH-- AND NOW SUDDENLY-- THEY'RE RETURNING TO THE COFFIN!

IT MAY SEEM SUDDEN, BUT THE TIMING'S JUST RIGHT --IT'S NEARLY MIDNIGHT!





CAN'T YOU GUESS  
WHAT IT MEANS,  
TED? **THAT GHOUL  
WILL BE HERE  
ANY MINUTE!**

NOW I KNOW WHY WE  
HAVE BEEN BROUGHT  
HERE--TO PROVIDE THE  
**HUMAN FACTOR** THAT  
CAN LEAD TO THAT  
FIEND'S DESTRUCTION!  
IT WAS DESTROYED  
ONCE--AND NOW EVERY-  
THING'S SET FOR US TO  
USE THE SAME METHOD--  
**EARTH AND FIRE!**



**F**OR A SECOND, THE NIGHT SEEMS TO  
HOLD ITS BREATH AT THE FINAL STROKE  
OF TWELVE--AND OUT OF THE BURDENED  
GLOOM--

**THERE IT!** KEEP HIDDEN, ABBY!  
**COMES!** AND IF IT -- I'LL HAVE TO REVEAL MY-  
SEES US--I SHUDDER SELF--JUST LONG  
TO THINK WHAT'LL ENOUGH TO SHOW  
**HAPPEN!** THAT FIEND WHAT  
IT'S UP AGAINST!



**HAA!** YOU HAVE  
INTRUDED A **SECOND**  
TIME--IT PROVES YOU  
KNOW WHAT I AM--  
**AND IT SPELLS  
DEATH!**

YOU CAN SAY THAT  
AGAIN, CREEP--**PRO-  
VIDED YOU'RE ABLE  
TO TALK!**



IN A SCARLET SHEET OF FLAME--

IS **THIS** WHAT YOU  
HOPE TO THREATEN  
ME WITH--**FIRE?**  
STEP BY STEP, I'M  
COMING TOWARD YOU  
--I WILL TEAR YOU  
APART--**YOUR ARMS**  
WILL BE THE ONES  
THAT MAKE MY BODY  
WHOLE TONIGHT!

YOU'RE BEGIN-  
NING TO STAG-  
GER! SURE,  
YOU'RE ADVANCING  
STEP BY STEP--  
**OVER A DIRT  
ROAD SWEEPED  
BY FLAMES!**



IN THE NEXT SECOND--AS A HIDEOUS WAIL  
SPIRALS UP IN A BILLOW OF SMOKE--

**AAAH!**

DON'T BE FRIGHTENED, ABBY,  
THOSE GHOSTLY HANDS KNEW  
JUST THE METHOD TO USE  
AGAINST THAT MONSTER--  
**AND IT WORKED!**



AS THE SINKING FLAMES CAST SHADOWS  
NO LONGER TINGED WITH DREAD--

DARLING--ARE YOU  
SURE THERE ISN'T  
**SOMETHING**  
LEFT OF THE  
GHOUL THAT  
WILL GIVE HIM  
**ANOTHER**  
RELEASE FROM  
DEATH?

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY  
ABOUT **THAT**--BECAUSE  
**THIS** TIME EARTH AND  
FIRE HAVE BEEN **COMBINED!**  
THERE ISN'T A FRAGMENT OF  
THAT FIEND REMAINING--  
ABLE TO STALK THE NIGHT  
SEEKING THE GRISLY  
MAKINGS FOR ANOTHER  
BODY!



*The End*

IT WAS A STRANGE, FORBIDDING MYSTERY THAT DR. WALDO HAMILTON FOUND HIMSELF TRYING TO UNRAVEL-- FOR WHO HAD EVER BEFORE DEALT WITH **TWIN SPIRITS INHABITING A SINGLE BODY?** AND WHEN ONE OF THESE WAS EVIL INCARNATE, SCIENCE FOUND ITSELF MATCHED AGAINST A SUPER-NATURAL FIEND-- IN THE PERSON OF THE ...

# TWIN & TERROR



IN THE OFFICE OF DR. WALDO HAMILTON, PROMINENT PSYCHIATRIST--

MRS. PATRICIA HARTLEY IS HERE TO SEE YOU, DOCTOR! SHE'S THAT DEBUTANTE WHOSE RECENT WEDDING WAS THE TALK OF THE TOWN!

AH, YES! THE SOCIETY GIRL WHO MARRIED A CHAP NO ONE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT! ASK HER TO COME IN, PLEASE!



I .. I CAME TO SEE YOU DOCTOR, BECAUSE I THINK EITHER IM MAD OR MY HUSBAND IS! YOU SEE, HE.. HE'S MORE THAN ONE PERSON! HE'S GOT TWO SPIRITS--

ONE GOOD, THE OTHER HORRIBLY EVIL!

HMM - SOUNDS LIKE A CASE OF SCHIZOPHRENIA-- A SPLIT PERSONALITY!



NO, IT'S NOT JUST HIS PERSONALITY! THE ARE TWO VISIBLE SPIRITS BOTH OCCUPYING HIS BODY! I-- I'VE SEEN THEM!

OBVIOUSLY SHE'S THE ONE WHO'S MENTALLY ILL-- SUFFERING FROM HALLUCINATIONS!

WHY DON'T YOU LIE DOWN HERE AND TELL ME THE WHOLE STORY FROM THE BEGINNING, MRS. HARTLEY?







I FELL IN LOVE WITH GUY HARTLEY THE MOMENT I MET HIM! THERE WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM -- AN OTHER-WORLDLINESS AND A WONDERFUL TENDERNESS THAT BEWITCHED ME! BUT RIGHT AFTER OUR MARRIAGE SOMETHING HAPPENED ... SOMETHING HORRIBLE!



WE WERE DRIVING TO THE HONEYMOON LODGE WE'D RENTED--WHEN ALONG ABOUT MIDNIGHT--

YOU KNOW, DARLING, I'VE NEVER BEEN WITH YOU THIS LATE BEFORE! YOU WERE ALWAYS SO RESPECTFUL, ALWAYS LEFT ME BEFORE MIDNIGHT!

YES...I...I ALWAYS GET UNACCOUNTABLY TIRED AND SLEEPY AROUND THIS TIME --INCLUDING RIGHT NOW! I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO PULL UP..TO THE SIDE OF THE... ROAD...



"AN INSTANT LATER, GUY SLUMPED OVER THE WHEEL, AS IF DEAD! THEN, LOOMING SPECTRALLY OUT OF THE NIGHT--"

OHH! AM--AM I SEEING THINGS?



"NUMB WITH TERROR, I WATCHED THE HIDEOUSLY EVIL-LOOKING SHAPE BEGIN TO MERGE WITH GUY'S BODY, AND AS IT DID, IT SEEMED TO FORCE OUT ANOTHER SPIRIT--ONE WITH A GOOD, KIND FACE!"

HA! IT'S MY TURN! OUT... OUT! SHOULD FIGHT... PROTECT MARCIA. BUT SLEEPY.. SO SLEEPY!



"THE MOMENT THE GOOD SPIRIT WAS EVICTED FROM MY HUSBAND'S BODY, IT VANISHED--AND THEN GUY, OR THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN GUY, BEGAN TO WAKE UP!"

GUY! W-WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? YOUR FACE--IT'S LIKE A--A--MANIAC'S! AND YOUR EYES--THEY'RE HIDEOUSLY EVIL! YOU-- YOU'RE FRIGHTENING ME!



YOU WHINING LITTLE FOOL! YOU DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF TERROR, BUT YOU WILL-- UNLESS YOU OBEY ME! FIRST, WE'RE GOING BACK TO YOUR HOUSE-- WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME ALL THE MONEY YOU'VE GOT!

STOP-- YOU'RE HURTING ME! PLEASE DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT! I-- I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY!

"THE DRIVE BACK WAS A GHASTLY ORDEAL - BUT THE NIGHT OF HORRORS WASN'T OVER YET..."



"IT WAS TOO TERRIFIED EVEN TO THINK OF RESISTENCE! THEN, TOWARD DAWN, AFTER I'D SIGNED OVER PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING I POSSESSED!"

"I'M GETTING TIRED-- SLEEPY... HAVE TO HIDE MONEY-- BEFORE... FALL ASLEEP..."

"THIS IS MY CHANCE TO ESCAPE-- I CAN'T BEAR THAT FIEND'S PRESENCE ANOTHER INSTANT!"



"HE STAGGERED AWAY AND I HASTILY THREW A FEW THINGS TOGETHER! THEN AS I DASHED PANIC-STRICKEN OUT OF THE HOUSE..."



"THEN IN A STARTLING REVERSAL OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED BEFORE..."





TWO THINGS HAVE PREVENTED ME FROM LEAVING GUY SINCE THAT HORRIBLE NIGHT -- ONE, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I'M SEEING THINGS THAT AREN'T REALLY THERE -- AND TWO, I STILL LOVE GUY AS HE IS IN THE DAYTIME! BUT EACH NIGHT, WHEN THE EVIL SPIRIT TAKES OVER, GUY IS LIKE A DEMON POSSESSED! HE LOCKS HIMSELF IN THE GARAGE, WHERE HE PORES OVER STRANGE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS WHICH HE'S BOUGHT WITH MY MONEY FROM EVEN STRANGER PEDDLERS WHO CALL ON HIM IN

THE DEAD OF NIGHT!



IF SHE IS MAD, IT'S THE STRANGEST PSYCHOSIS I'VE EVER COME ACROSS! BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ... CONVINCING ABOUT HER STORY! I'D BETTER CHECK ON IT!

I'D LIKE TO WITNESS THIS TRANSFORMATION IN YOUR HUSBAND, MRS. HARTLEY! CAN YOU LET ME INTO YOUR HOUSE SECRETLY -- JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT?

CERTAINLY DOCTOR!



THAT NIGHT --

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, DOCTOR -- GUY'S JUST FALLEN ASLEEP! COME QUICKLY!



OUT.. OUT!

YE GODS -- EVERYTHING SHE TOLD ME IS TRUE!



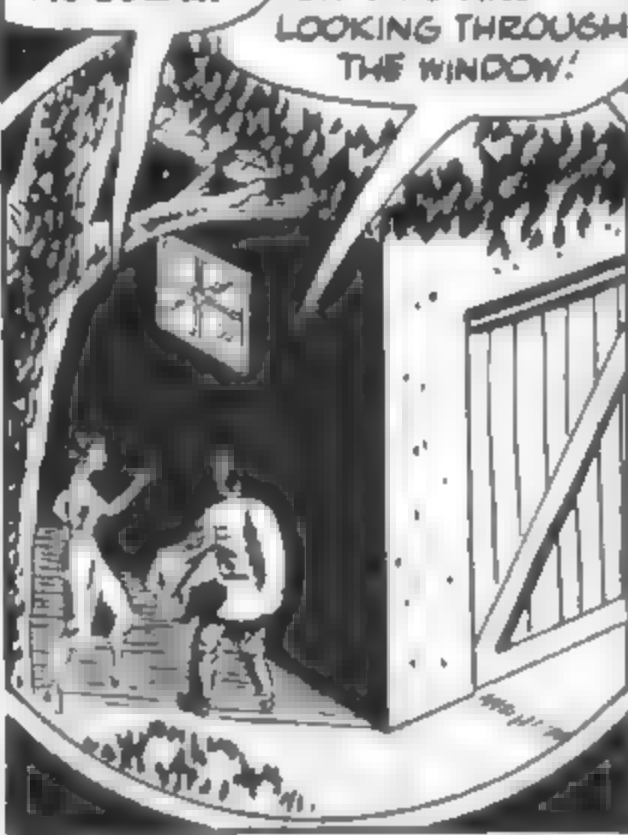
MOMENTS LATER -- MY BOOKS! I MUST GET BACK TO MY BOOKS!

COME ON -- LET'S FOLLOW HIM!



HE'S LOCKED HIMSELF IN THE GARAGE -- AS USUAL!

I'M GOING TO SEE WHAT HE'S DOING -- BY CLIMBING ON THIS AND LOOKING THROUGH THE WINDOW!



THE ANSWER MUST BE IN ONE OF THESE ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS -- IT MUST BE! I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT HOW TO DESTROY THE OTHER SPIRIT -- SO THEN I

ALONE WILL POSSESS THE BODY OF GUY HARTLEY!



TOWARD DAWN, AFTER A NIGHT-LONG VIGIL...



AT LAST, THE ANSWER--I'VE FOUND IT! BUT IT'S TOO CLOSE TO DAWN! TOO LATE TO TRY IT NOW! GETTING SLEEPY-- HAVE TO LOCK UP-- GET BACK TO THE HOUSE-- TRY IT TOMORROW NIGHT!

MINUTES LATER--



HE BARELY MADE IT BACK TO THE CHAIR -- BEFORE COLLAPSING!

OUT, FIEND!

HE'S BEGINNING TO AWAKEN, MRS. HARTLEY! NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY-- WE'VE GOT NO TIME TO WASTE NOW THAT HIS EVIL SPIRIT HAS APPARENTLY FOUND A WAY OF DESTROYING THE OTHER! I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT WHO GUY'S FAMILY DOCTOR WAS, AND THEN LOCATE HIM AT ALL COSTS! MEANWHILE, I'M BREAKING INTO THE GARAGE TO DO SOME STUDYING OF MY OWN!



BY MID-AFTERNOON--

THANK GOODNESS, I FINALLY LOCATED THE HARTLEY FAMILY PHYSICIAN-- I'VE GOT HIM ON THE PHONE FOR YOU, DOCTOR!

GOOD-- MY RESEARCH HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL, TOO!



YES, INDEED--I REMEMBER THE HARTLEY CASE VERY WELL! GUY HARTLEY WAS ONE OF TWINS, BUT THE OTHER ONE DIED SOME TIME BEFORE BIRTH! VERY UNUSUAL CASE!



THANKS, DOCTOR-- THAT CONFIRMS MY HUNCH.

TRY TO UNDERSTAND, MR. HARTLEY-- MUCH AS THIS APPLALS YOU! TWINS WERE IN THE MYSTERIOUS PROCESS OF BIRTH, BUT ONE DIED-- WHICH LEFT TWO SPIRITS FIGHTING FOR POSSESSION OF THE ONE REMAINING BODY! YOUR BROTHER'S SPIRIT BECAME DIABOLICALLY EVIL, CONSUMED WITH INTENSE GREED FOR WHAT WAS NOT RIGHTFULLY HIS, AND SUCCEEDED IN BEING ABSORBED INTO YOUR LIVING TISSUE-- AND THE BATTLE FOR TOTAL POSSESSION HAS GONE ON EVER SINCE!



BUT-- BUT WHY WASN'T I AWARE OF THIS FIENDISH PRESENCE DURING MY WAKING MOMENTS?

I FOUND THAT ANSWER IN THOSE OCCULT BOOKS! IN SUCH CASES AS YOURS, EACH SPIRIT CAN TAKE CONTROL OF THE BODY ONLY WHEN THE OTHER IS ASLEEP, THEREFORE POWERLESS TO KEEP ITSELF FROM BEING DRIVEN OUT! BUT SINCE YOUR NATURE IS BASICALLY GOOD, YOU REPRESSED ALL KNOWLEDGE OF THIS EVIL FORCE IN YOUR LIFE -- SO THAT YOU WERE COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF WHAT YOU DID WHEN YOUR EVIL SIDE WAS DOMINANT!





BUT I ALSO LEARNED THE SECRET YOUR EVIL SPIRIT WAS SO DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR--A SECRET WHICH WOULD HAVE GIVEN HIM COMPLETE MASTERY NIGHT AND DAY! AND THIS IS IT! IF EITHER SPIRIT DOESN'T RETURN TO THE BODY AT ITS FIXED TIME, IT WEAKENS THROUGH LACK OF BODILY NOURISHMENT--FINALLY TO DISINTEGRATE AND BE UTTERLY DESTROYED! BUT I

HAVE A PLAN--  
A PLAN WHICH  
WILL THWART  
HIS DEVILISH  
DESIGN!

THIS..  
THIS IS SO..  
INCREDIBLE!  
BUT IF BOTH OF  
YOU SAY IT'S  
ALL TRUE, I'LL  
DO WHATEVER  
YOU SAY!

LATER, AS THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT TOLLS  
THE KNEEL OF DOOM--

THE  
EVIL  
SPIRIT!  
IT'S  
MATERIALIZED!

YE GODS--IS THAT  
FIEND PART OF ME?

DON'T WORRY--I'VE  
GOT ENOUGH STIM-  
ULANTS IN YOU TO  
KEEP YOUR TRUE  
SPIRIT STRONG AND  
AWAKE! BUT TO  
MAKE SURE, I'LL  
INJECT EVEN  
MORE!

BLAST YOU-- THIS IS MY  
APPOINTED TIME TO TAKE  
CONTROL! I...I'VE GOT  
TO TAKE POSSESSION OF  
YOUR BODY NOW...  
BUT I---I  
CAN'T!

WE'RE DOING JUST  
WHAT YOU PLANNED  
TO DO TONIGHT--TO  
KEEP YOUR OPPOSING  
SPIRIT OUT, ONCE  
YOU HAD CONTROL!  
IT'LL TAKE A  
LITTLE TIME--  
BUT YOU'LL GET  
WEAKER...  
AND WEAKER...

AS THE MINUTES TICK AWAY AND THE STRANGE  
BATTLE WANES..

TOO...TOO WEAK NOW---  
I---I'VE LOST---



IT'S ALL OVER--YOUR  
EVIL SPIRIT HAS  
VANISHED INTO  
THE LIMBO OF  
NON-EXISTENCE!

I--I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO  
THANK YOU ENOUGH,  
DOCTOR! FOR NOW I HAVE  
MARCIA, ALL  
TO MYSELF!



The  
END

SO YOU DON'T **BELIEVE** IN THE SUPERNATURAL! YOU THINK THAT GRAVEYARD GHOSTS AND ROTTING ZOMBIES DON'T EXIST-- BUT MOST OF ALL, YOU DERIDE THE STORIES OF THE ANCIENT BLOOD LUST THAT TURNS A HUMAN INTO A THING THAT FLAPS BY NIGHT! OLD WIVES' TALES, YOU SAY-- AND YOU'VE COME TO VISIT THE **INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH INTO VAMPIRISM** JUST TO SNEER! BUT THE CURATOR HAS A WAY OF DEALING WITH DOUBTERS! LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO REVEAL--HANG BREATHLESS ON EVERY WORD-- BEFORE YOU SAY--

# CURSE OF THE VAMPIRES



WELL, WELL-- SO YOU'RE A READER OF THIS MAGAZINE WHO DOESN'T **BELIEVE** IN VAMPIRES! COME, SIT DOWN--MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE--WHILE I TELL YOU A STORY WHICH MAY MAKE YOU THINK **DIFFERENTLY!**



AS CURATOR OF THIS INSTITUTE, I'M IN A POSITION TO ACQUAINT YOU WITH AN **AUTHENTIC CASE** FROM OUR FILES! HERE IT IS-- NO. 214-A--THE CASE OF **LISA CASMANA!**



"YOU'D NEVER THINK THAT IT COULD START **THIS WAY**--WITH A TINY REFUGEE STUMBLING AWAY FROM THE FLAMING WRECKAGE OF A CASTLE IN CENTRAL EUROPE, DESTROYED BY BOMBARDMENT DURING THE LATE WAR--"





"AMERICA--FOSTER-PARENTS WHO IDOLIZED THE TOT! THEY DIDN'T KNOW THAT WITHIN HER, THE OLD VAMPIRE TAINT STIRRED! THEY THOUGHT IT CUTE WHEN SHE SLEPT WITH HER DOLL--NOT REALIZING THAT HER TEETH WERE CLOSED ON ITS THROAT!"



THE DARLING!  
SO INNOCENT...

"NO, LISA  
DIDN'T  
REALIZE  
THERE WAS  
ANYTHING  
WRONG! SHE  
GREW OLDER--  
HARDLY  
COMPREHENDING  
THE STRANGE  
DREAMS--THE  
WEIRD, DIM  
DREAMS--"



ALWAYS...  
HE DOES...  
THAT...  
BUT WHY...?

"SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY--NOT THEN! THAT HAD TO WAIT FOR MATURITY! IT HAPPENED ON A DATE NIGHT... UP ABOVE, A FULL MOON SHONE! IT WAS THE ANCIENT SIGNAL OF THE VAMPIRE CLAN--AND WITHIN HER, FOR THE FIRST TIME--THE HUNGER GREW!"

HEY, LISA--  
WHAT GIVES?  
SURE THE  
MOON'S FULL  
--BUT ARE YOU  
FORGETTING  
THAT THIS IS  
ME NEAR  
YOU?



YES...THE...  
MOON...I--  
I'VE NEVER  
SEEN IT SO  
WILDLY BEAUTI-  
FUL-- NEVER  
FELT LIKE--  
THIS--



--YOU--  
SO NEAR--  
IT MAKES  
ME WANT  
TO--

HEY, WHAT'S  
GOTTEN INTO  
YOU?



HEAVEN HELP ME--  
I CAN'T--STOP!

ARGH!



"OH, YES, HE STRUGGLED--  
NOW HE STRUGGLED! BUT  
THIS WASN'T A WOMAN ANY  
LONGER! IT WAS A BEAST  
THAT SENSED ITS PREY--  
AND MADE ITS KILL!"

NO! NO! HELP!  
YOU'RE--KILLING--  
OH-HNNNN...

"NATURALLY, SHE WAS BESIDE HERSELF AT WHAT HAD HAPPENED! BUT AS SHE KNELT OVER HIS BODY HYSTERICALLY--"



WHAT--WHAT HAVE I  
DONE? I MUST HAVE  
--LOST MY SENSES!  
EVEN NOW--FEEL--  
STRANGE---

"WHO CAN BELIEVE THE AWFUL HORROR OF WHAT HAPPENED THEN? HANDS INTO CLAWS--TEETH INTO FANGS--THE BLACK WINGS OF THE ACCURSED!"



PRETTY INTERESTING ... FOR A FAIRY TALE!



"BY NOW THE POLICE HAD ARRIVED, IN RESPONSE TO HER VICTIM'S DYING CRIES! IT WAS TIME FOR THE VAMPIRE TO TEST HER WINGS!"



"HIGH OVER THE ROOFS OF THE CITY SPED THE AWFUL CREATURE THAT HAD ONCE BEEN A WOMAN! AND FINALLY--"



"YES, THERE WAS SOMEONE THERE-- SOMEONE WHO KINDLED HER NEWFOUND BLOOD LUST TO A BLAZING HEIGHT!"



NO--I CAN'T DO IT! I CAN'T YIELD TO MADNESS AGAIN! BUT IT--IT'S LIKE SOME AWFUL FEVER WITHIN ME--



OH-HHHH! HELP! H-HELP!

ARR-RRR...







DON'T--  
MMMEFF...

THEY'LL BE COMING  
TO INVESTIGATE THOSE  
SCREAMS! I'VE --  
GOT TO GET HER  
AWAY FROM HERE!

"GONE WAS PITY...GONE WAS REMORSE...AS A KILLER  
BORE ITS PREY ACROSS THE SKIES!"

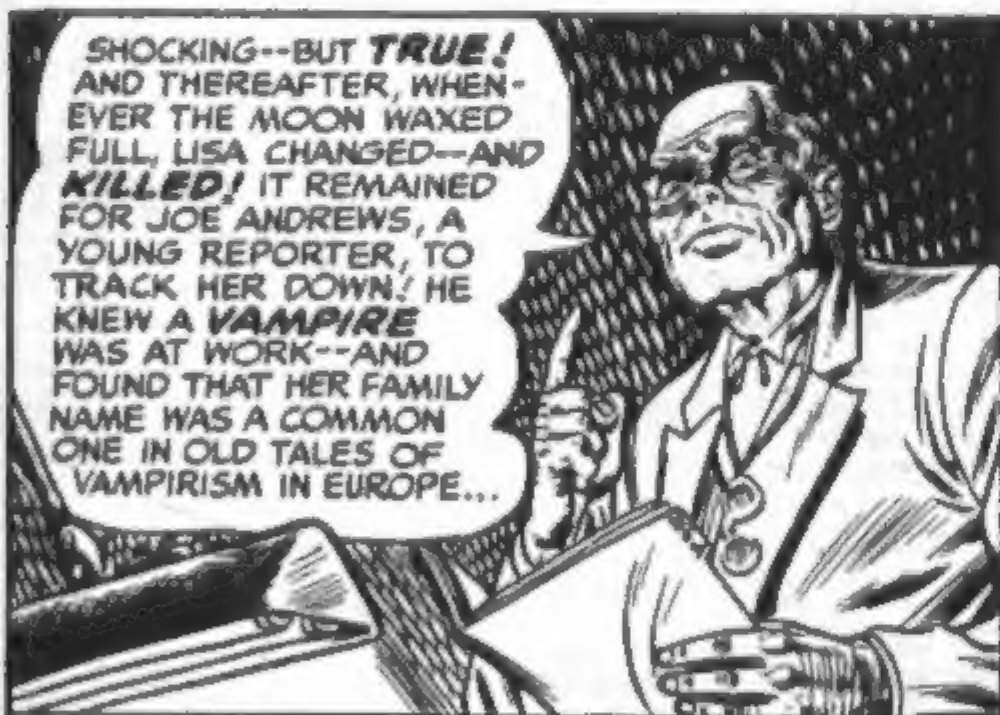


"AND IN A SECLUDED SPOT--THE FOUL DEED WAS DONE!"



HELP--  
OH-MNNNNH!

GR-RRRR...



SHOCKING--BUT **TRUE!**  
AND THEREAFTER, WHEN-  
EVER THE MOON WAXED  
FULL, LISA CHANGED--AND  
**KILLED!** IT REMAINED  
FOR JOE ANDREWS, A  
YOUNG REPORTER, TO  
TRACK HER DOWN! HE  
KNEW A **VAMPIRE**  
WAS AT WORK--AND  
FOUND THAT HER FAMILY  
NAME WAS A COMMON  
ONE IN OLD TALES OF  
VAMPIRISM IN EUROPE...

"THERE WAS NO PROOF--HE HAD TO **WATCH HER!**  
AND SO, TO WIN HER CONFIDENCE, JOE STARTED  
GOING OUT WITH HER--"

OH, JOE, I'M  
HAVING **SUCH**  
A GOOD TIME!

SHE'S--**WONDERFUL!**  
WHAT A FOOL I WAS, THINKING  
THAT A LOVELY GIRL LIKE **HER**  
COULD BE IMPLICATED IN THIS  
BLOOD-STAINED CASE!



"IT WAS NO SURPRISE THAT **LOVE** BLOOMED BE-  
TWEEN THEM! OH, LISA WAS SINCERE ENOUGH--AND  
JOE WAS SAFE! YOU SEE--THERE WASN'T ANY FULL  
MOON THAT NIGHT!"

I--I LOVE  
YOU--

OH, DARLING--  
MY DARLING--



"IT ALL CAME OUT THEN--AS A GUILTY CON-  
SCIENCE REBELLED BENEATH THE ENCHANTMENT  
OF ROMANCE--"

I--I CAN'T REMAIN  
**SILENT ANY LONGER!**  
YOU'VE GOT TO FORGET  
YOU EVER KNEW ME, JOE! I'M  
A **MURDERESS--A VAMPIRE**  
WHO KILLS IN THE LIGHT OF  
THE **FULL**  
MOON!

LORD HELP ME,  
THEN IT'S--**TRUE!**  
AND I--I LOVE  
YOU TOO MUCH  
TO TURN YOU  
OVER TO THE  
LAW!







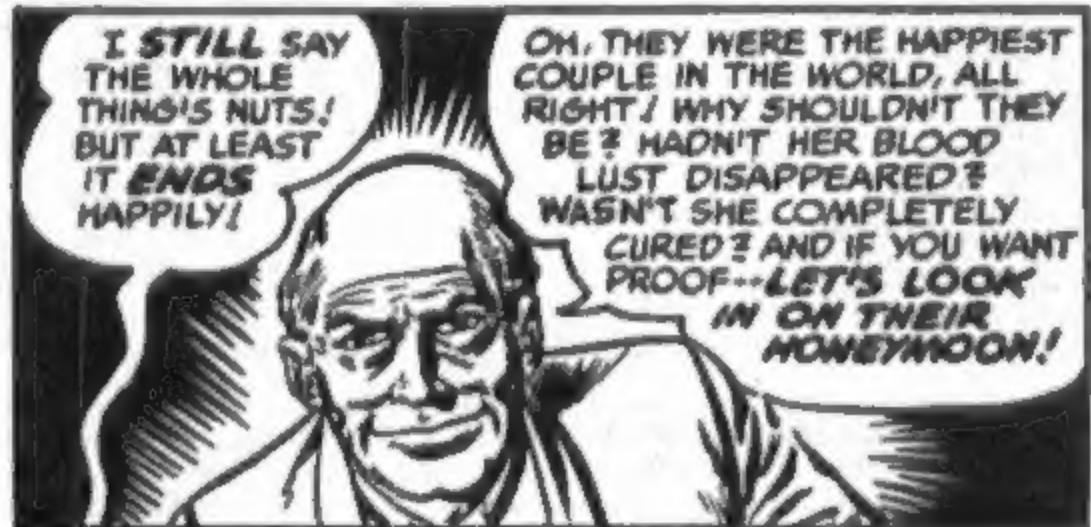
"YES, FOR THEIR LOVE--AND TO WIPE AWAY THE BLOODSTAINED CURSE OF VAMPIRISM--"



"THIS WAS THE **SCIENTIFIC** APPROACH TO AN AGE-OLD PROBLEM--AS THE SCALPEL PROBED, PROBED FOR THE HIDDEN CAUSE BEHIND THE ANCIENT BLOODLUST! WOULD IT--**COULD** IT BE SUCCESSFUL? COULD LISA SURVIVE THE DELICATE SURGERY?"



"YES, JUST TO BE A HEALTHY, HAPPY GIRL--TO MARRY THE MAN SHE IDOLIZED--"





# see through walls

the  
man  
from



**U.N.C.L.E.**

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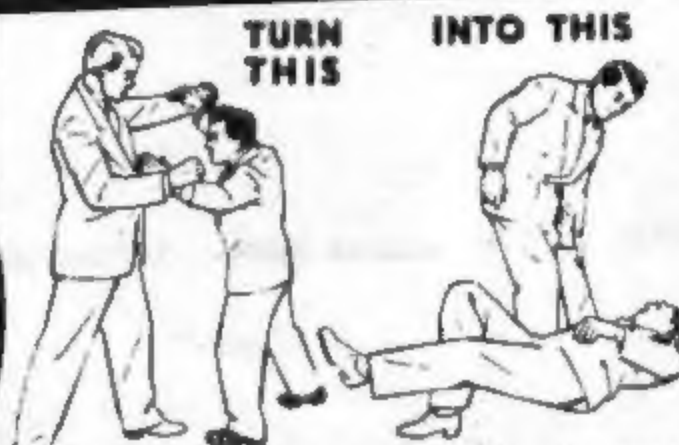
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HAPPILY THEY LINGERED IN THAT PEACEFUL SPOT AS DAY DIED! BEHIND THEM--THE FULL MOON ROSE--



YES, LISA--WHY SO STRANGE? CAN IT BE THAT THE FULL MOON STRIKES WITH FATAL FASCINATION? THAT THE OPERATION HAD GIVEN ONLY TEMPORARY RELIEF, RATHER THAN CURE? THAT YOU'RE -- CHANGING?



IT WAS THEN THAT JOE OPENED HIS EYES--TO GAZE UPON THE LAST THING HE WAS EVER TO SEE-- LISA'S FANGS AS THEY LUNGED TOWARDS HIS THROAT!



SO THERE IT IS-- AN AUTHENTIC CASE WHICH PROVES THAT VAMPIRES EXIST--AND SHOWS THAT THEY'RE DANGEROUS!



YOU'RE--RIGHT! THERE IS A FULL MOON, ISN'T THERE-- BUT YOU'RE NOT AFRAID!



NOT AFRAID--BUT YOU SHOULD BE! YOU SEE--I GET MY PREY FROM DOUBTERS LIKE YOU!



THE END